

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Adam Masia on 09/11/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Replace claim 1 with the following:

A gaming device comprising:

a cabinet;

at least one display device mounted to the cabinet; and

at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device for each play of a game to:

(a) separately and simultaneously display both of:

(i) a reel display of a set of reels, said reel display associated with one of a plurality of paylines, and

(ii) a plurality of additional reel displays, wherein each of said additional reel displays includes a copy of said set of reels and is associated with a different one of said plurality of paylines than said reel display;

(b) activate the set of reels of the reel display to generate and display a plurality of symbols based on a random determination and cause the reel display to identify a combination of symbols occurring on said payline associated with said reel display;

(c) display the same plurality of said symbols generated on the set of reels based on said same random determination on each of the additional reel displays and cause

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each additional reel display to identify a combination of symbols occurring on a different one of said plurality of paylines than said payline associated with said reel display; and

(d) for each said payline that is wagered on, provide an award to a player based on any winning combination of symbols occurring on said payline.

3. Replace claim 2 with the following:

The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to operate with the at least one display device to provide a total award to the player including the sum of all of the awards associated with the winning combinations of symbols occurring on the paylines.

4. Replace claim 14 with the following:

The gaming device of Claim 12, wherein said at least one processor is programmed to operate with said at least one display device to provide a bonus award to the player when a winning combination of the symbols occurs on the payline of at least one of said reel displays of the reel display and the additional reel displays selected by the player.

5. Replace claim 15 with the following:

The gaming device of Claim 12, wherein said at least one processor is programmed to operate with said at least one display device to provide a bonus award to the player when a winning combination of the symbols occurs on the payline of all of said reel displays of the reel display and the additional reel displays selected by the player.

6. Replace claim 18 with the following:

A method of operating a gaming device including at least one display device and at least one processor, said method comprising for each play of a game:

- (a) separately and simultaneously displaying via the at least one display device both of:
  - (i) a reel display of a set of reels, said reel display associated with one of a plurality of paylines, and
  - (ii) a plurality of additional reel displays, said additional reel displays each including a copy of said set of reels and associated with a different one of said plurality of paylines than said reel display;
- (b) causing the at least one processor to operate with the at least one display device to activate the set of reels of the reel display to generate and display a plurality of the symbols based on a random determination;
- (c) displaying a combination of symbols occurring on the payline associated with the reel display via the at least one display device;
- (d) displaying the same plurality of symbols generated on the set of reels based on said same random determination on each of the additional reel displays via the at least one display device;
- (e) displaying a combination of symbols occurring on the payline associated with each of the respective additional reel displays via the at least one display device; and
- (f) for each said payline that is wagered on, providing an award to a player based on any winning combination of symbols occurring on said payline.

7. Replace claim 19 with the following:

The method of Claim 18, which includes providing a total award including the sum of all of the awards associated with winning combinations of symbols occurring on the paylines.

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8. Replace claim 25 with the following:

The method of Claim 18, which includes providing a bonus award to the player when a designated percentage of the paylines indicate a winning combination of the symbols.

9. Replace claim 29 with the following:

The method of Claim 28, which includes providing a bonus award to the player when a winning combination of the symbols occurs on the payline of at least one of said reel displays of the reel display and the additional reel displays selected by the player.

10. Replace claim 30 with the following:

The method of Claim 28, which includes providing a bonus award to the player when a winning combination of the symbols occurs on the payline of all of said reel displays of the reel display and the additional reel displays selected by the player.

11. Replace claim 36 with the following:

A gaming device operable under control of at least one processor, the gaming device comprising:

a cabinet;

at least one display device mounted to the cabinet; and

said at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device to for each play of a game:

(a) activate a set of reels to generate and display a plurality of symbols based on a random determination;

(b) display one of a plurality of different paylines in association with the randomly generated plurality of symbols at the set of reels;

(c) display a plurality of copies of said set of reels separately and simultaneously, wherein each of the copies of said set of reels includes the plurality of symbols generated and displayed based on the same random determination; and

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(d) for each of the copies of said set of reels, display a different one of the plurality of different paylines in association with the same randomly generated and displayed plurality of symbols than the payline displayed in association with the set of reels.

12. Replace claim 37 with the following:

A gaming system comprising:

at least one display device configured to display a game operable upon a wager, said game including:

- (i) a set of reels including a plurality of reels,
  - (ii) a plurality of symbols on the reels, a plurality of the symbols being different, and
  - (iii) a plurality of different paylines associated with the reels;
- at least one input device; and

at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device for each play of the game to:

- (a) cause the set of reels to display a plurality of randomly generated symbols of the plurality of symbols, and indicate a combination of symbols occurring on one of the plurality of different paylines, and
- (b) simultaneously and separately cause the display of a plurality of copies of the set of reels, each copy having the same randomly generated symbols displayed as the set of reels based on said randomly generated symbols, and indicate a combination of symbols occurring on a different one of the plurality of different paylines than the payline indicated on the set of reels.

13. Replace claim 39 with the following:

The gaming system of Claim 37, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to operate with the at least one display device to display a total award including the sum of any awards associated with winning combinations of the symbols occurring on the paylines.

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14. Replace claim 43 with the following:

A gaming system comprising:

at least one display device configured to display a game operable upon a wager, said game including:

- (i) a set of reels including a plurality of reels,
- (ii) a plurality of symbols on the reels, a plurality of the symbols being different, and
- (iii) a plurality of different paylines associated with the reels;

at least one input device; and

at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device for each play of the game to:

- (a) separately and simultaneously display both of:
  - (i) a reel display of the set of reels, and
  - (ii) for each of the plurality of different paylines, a separate payline display area separate from the set of reels;
- (b) cause the set of reels to display a plurality of randomly generated symbols of the plurality of symbols, and
- (c) simultaneously and separately, for each wagered on payline on which there is a winning symbol combination resulting from said random generation, cause a display of the symbols of the winning symbol combination at the respective separate payline display area of said payline.

15. Replace claim 44 with the following:

A method operating a gaming system including at least one display device and at least one processor, the method comprising for each play of a wagering game:

- (a) separately and simultaneously displaying via the at least one display device both of:
  - (i) a reel display of a set of reels, and
  - (ii) for each of a plurality of different paylines, a separate payline display area separate from the set of reels;

(b) causing the set of reels to display via the at least one display device a plurality of randomly generated symbols of a plurality of symbols, and

(c) simultaneously and separately, for each wagered on payline on which there is a winning symbol combination resulting from said random generation, causing a display via the at least one display device of the symbols of the winning symbol combination at the respective separate payline display area of said payline.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

16. Claims 11-12 and 14-44 are allowed.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

17. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 18, 36-37 and 43-44 distinguish over the prior art of record in that the Applicant specifically claims displaying for each game separately and simultaneously a different one of a plurality paylines identifying a combination of symbols occurring on said one of a plurality of different paylines. The teaching of the Applicant's claims are different from the prior art in that the prior art does not disclose alone or in combination displaying for each game separately and simultaneously a different one of a plurality paylines identifying a combination of symbols occurring on said one of a plurality of different paylines

18. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Pinheiro whose telephone number is (571)270-1350. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM - 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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